



NAVY NEWS



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Forward ... from the Sea

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FY 2000 aviation career pay program increases

By Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy announced recently that it is significantly increasing the fiscal 2000 Aviation Career Continuation Pay program in order to increase pilot and Naval flight officer retention.

This mid-year bonus adjustment marks a dramatic and positive shift in retention policy that far exceeds any previous Naval aviation bonus program and has been eagerly anticipated by aviators at every level.

“Senior naval and civilian leadership have recognized the very real retention challenges facing naval aviation today and for the foreseeable future by unanimously endorsing this robust bonus plan,” said Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel.

Under the new plan, naval aviators can earn up to \$245,000 in aviation bonuses through 25 years of aviation service.

There are several options under the



new program. Aviators who are eligible for an aviation bonus for the first time in FY-00 can sign a five-year contract that provides \$25,000 a year for pilots and \$15,000 for naval flight officers. Eligible officers may receive a lump-sum payment of 50 percent of the entire bonus upon

signing the agreement.

Short-term agreements — two to three years — are also available for naval aviators at specific career milestones throughout their careers for up to \$15,000 per year.

This new program is being implemented in order to retain an adequate number of aviators at every experience level to man the fleet squadrons and aircraft carriers forward deployed around the world as well as other duty stations where aviators are assigned.

“There are more than 100 junior aviators who are either awaiting separation or are bonus eligible and have not yet declared their intentions in FY-00 alone. This program is designed to help these aviators, in which the Navy has invested so much, to decide to stay Navy,” said Ryan.

For more information on this program, contact Cmdr. Betsy Bird at (703) 614-2000.

Navy reinforces commitment to college education

By Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy announced recently the expansion of its College Assistance/Student Headstart Program, or CASH.

The CASH program will allow qualified applicants to attend a college or university for up to a full year after being sworn in the Navy, while receiving full Navy pay and allowances. Selectees also receive a military identification card and medical/dental benefits for themselves and any eligible family members.

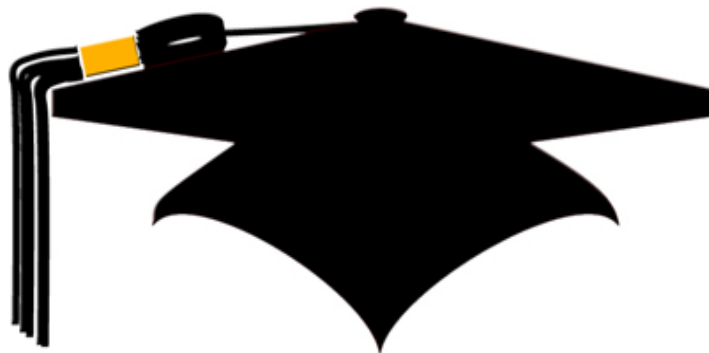
This program enables personnel to continue working toward a degree at any accredited college or university while awaiting basic training.

“This is a great ‘earn-while-you-learn’ program,” said Rear Adm. Barbara E. McGann, commander, Navy

Recruiting Command. “It demonstrates how much the Navy supports college education for its new Sailors.”

Enrollment in the CASH program requires the applicant to maintain full-time student status and completion (with a grade of C or better) of one college-level algebra course prior to reporting to Recruit Training Command.

In addition to the CASH program, a new bonus was also announced, available to those with college experience. Based on



the number of college credits completed, applicants can qualify for up to \$20,000 in enlistment bonuses.

For more information on these and other Navy opportunities, call 1-800-USA-NAVY, or visit <http://www.navyjobs.com>.

Short supply forces anthrax vaccination slowdown

By Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Department of Defense's (DoD) dwindling supply of anthrax vaccine has forced a temporary slowdown in inoculations, except to those personnel serving or about to serve in high-threat areas of Southwest Asia and South Korea, defense officials said during a Pentagon press conference.

Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Randy L. West, senior adviser to the deputy secretary of defense for chemical and biological protection, told reporters DoD has only about 160,000 doses of the vaccine on hand. He said DoD is trying to avoid suspending or shutting down the anthrax inoculation program.

What's left of the vaccine is being largely reserved for the 10,000 DoD people "with boots on the ground" in Southwest Asia and 37,000 in South Korea, said Dr. J. Jarrett

"We're less at risk than we were in 1998, because we have more than 455,000 people that have some protection and 56,725 are fully protected. But we're less protected than we want to be."

— Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Randy L. West, senior adviser to the deputy SECDEF for chemical and biological protection.

Clinton, first assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

For the time being, most personnel in those areas who have begun the six-shot series will stop the inoculations if they rotate out. West said DoD guidance allows for local commanders' discretion, so, for instance, rotating soldiers might still get shots because the 10-dose vaccine vials can only be used or discarded once opened.

So far, 455,378 people have started vaccinations and

have received a total of about 1.8 million shots. Some 56,725 have received all six shots, West said. During the slowdown, dosing will fall from about 75,000 vaccinations monthly to around 14,000. At that rate, DoD has enough vaccine to last up to 10 months, he estimated.

The mandatory six shots provide full protection as required by the FDA, West noted. He pointed out that receiving fewer than six shots causes no damage or harm to individuals, but does mean

they lack the additional immunity protection provided by the complete series.

Clinton said the first three shots are given in two-week intervals and the last three, six months apart. An annual booster shot keeps troops fully protected. Although a person gains some protection by the second or third shot, it takes the full six for full, sustained immunity, he said.

Persons who have started the series but not finished will only need to pick up where they left off once their vaccinations resume, Clinton said. That's the guidance, he said, of the Centers for Disease Control's expert Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices.

West attributed the slowdown to the inability of the sole contractor, Bioprotect of Lansing, Mich., to gain Food

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Pacific Command chief cautions U.S. personnel

By Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

BEIJING (NNS) — U.S. personnel in the Republic of Korea need to be wary of anti-American sentiments caused by a number of converging factors, according to the commander of U.S. Pacific Command.

"The excitement of the summit (between North Korean and South Korean leaders) seems to have stirred up the level of and combination of resentment against the American presence which has always been held by some very small part of Korean society," Adm. Dennis Blair told

reporters traveling with Defense Secretary William S. Cohen.

Those recent meetings caused some in the south to call for the withdrawal of U.S. forces, Blair said. South Korean President Dae-jung Kim, however, strongly supports a continued U.S. military presence, reunification or no. Kim said he would like U.S. troops to stay and anticipates that they will.

About 37,000 U.S. service members are stationed in South Korea.

Blair noted that a U.S.

officer was recently killed outside a popular shopping area in Seoul by "an unbalanced person," and a "local issue" regarding a target range located near some villages sparked big demonstrations near Osan.

"The Korean officers I have talked to and officials do not see it as a long-term increase in antipathy toward the United States," Blair said. Still, U.S. military officials have "upped the level of concern" among U.S. personnel, he said.

"We haven't buttoned up



the bases or any of that, but we still told people to watch out for each other, to be more careful because there's more disturbances in the area and some prudent measures are being taken," Blair said.

USS Essex arrives in Sasebo for swap

By Lt. Lisa Brackenbury, Amphibious Group 1 Public Affairs



SASEBO, Japan (NNS) — USS Essex (LHD 2) arrived at Fleet Activities Sasebo from San Diego to officially begin the Navy's largest crew swap to date.

The swap is part of a planned rotation of forward-deployed Naval forces in Japan and will be the third crew-swap exchange where crews will simply switch ships, vice impacting families by having to move to new homeports.

Sailors in Sasebo currently assigned to USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) will move on to Essex. Conversely, Sailors from San Diego assigned to

Essex will move aboard Belleau Wood. Belleau Wood and the San Diego-based crew will then return to San Diego mid-August to begin overhaul and maintenance cycles.

Belleau Wood has been forward deployed to Sasebo since the fall of 1992.

Commissioned Oct. 17, 1992, Essex is a Wasp-class ship, and has a crew of approximately 60 officers and 1,000 enlisted. Although 14 years newer, Essex has basically the same appearance as Belleau Wood with the only major difference being a slightly longer flight deck by 24 feet and a shorter island

structure. Both are multi-purpose amphibious assault ships, able to carry a variety of helicopters, landing craft and AV-8B Harrier jets.

The turnover is expected to last five to six weeks and will be an extremely busy time for Fleet Activities Sasebo personnel, but far more so for the two crews.

"We have a lot of work to do in the next month or so that will involve the dedicated efforts of both crews," said Capt. Tom Parker, commanding officer of Belleau Wood. "Everyone will have to learn their way around, including their new berthing and

workspaces. Although the ships look essentially the same from the outside, the interior configurations are slightly different."

For example, the Essex's Combat Information Center (CIC) is on the 02 level. Belleau Wood's CIC is located near the bridge on the 06 level. The elevators, flight deck and stowage areas throughout the ship are in slightly different configurations as well.

"It will definitely be a learning experience for all of us," added Parker.

Both crews, as well as the

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and Drug Administration approval for its production facility. He said immunizations will resume at full speed when the FDA approves and certifies a sufficient supply of vaccine as safe and effective, but he emphasized Biopart's own timetable doesn't call for its new vaccine to be available before the end of the year.

"We're disappointed because we wish we were vaccinating the whole force now. We're running about a year behind our planned schedule in this program," West said.

"When we began the program, there was an existing supply and there was one

company that had a license," he noted. "In retrospect, I wish that we would have immediately advertised for a second source. We did not. We recently have." Biopart will cooperate with that second-source contractor, he said, and the FDA says that company could earn certification in two to four years.

He said Britain and Russia have anthrax vaccines, but neither has FDA approval. The British vaccine is similar to the U.S. vaccine, but also in limited supply, and DoD has no interest in the Russians' live-bacteria vaccine, West noted.

The number of people

who are refusing shots and the number of adverse reactions have declined, West noted.

"We've had 351 people that have refused to take the shot and have remained adamant enough about that to receive disciplinary action or be discharged or released from service," he said.

"There have been 848 Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System forms reviewed as of last month. That's out of 1.8 million-plus shots." He said 163 people have missed a day of work because of adverse reaction to the shots and 38 have been hospitalized.

He said intelligence

reports indicate that the threat has increased since the anthrax vaccination program started in 1998.

"There has also been an increase in the number of both state actors and non-state actors that have done things that have prompted our intelligence committee to believe they are trying to obtain the capability (for biological weapons)."

But, West emphasized, "We're less at risk than we were in 1998, because we have more than 455,000 people that have some protection and 56,725 are fully protected. But we're less protected than we want to be."



Bilateral MCM exercise takes place in Gulf of Mexico

By Mine Warfare Command Public Affairs

INGLESIDE, Texas (NNS) — An annual bilateral mine countermeasures (MCM) training exercise with U.S. MCM forces and Republic of Singapore Navy personnel took place July 10-21 in the Gulf of Mexico and ashore at the Naval Station here.

During exercise Mercury 2000, Republic of Singapore Navy personnel took part in integrated MCM operations that blended together U.S. surface ships, aircraft and explosive ordnance (EOD) divers. The exercise was designed to promote cooperation and understanding between the two navies.

American MCM forces participating in Mercury — including seven ships and more than 1,000 personnel — were under the tactical command of Capt. Tom B. Davilli, com-

mander of Mine Countermeasures Squadron One, based at Ingleside. Davilli and his staff support U.S. MCM operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet and operate throughout the Western Pacific.

“Developing and maintaining a strong relationship with the mine countermeasures forces of nations in the 7th Fleet area of operations is critical,” Davilli said. “Exercises like Mercury give us the perfect opportunity to form professional associations that will help strengthen our military-to-military relationships should we need to work together in the future.”

The Mercury series of exercises began with the U.S. hosting the first in 1996. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) hosts the exercise

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staffs of Amphibious Group (CPG) 1 and 3 out of San Diego, have been preparing and planning the swap for months, using lessons learned from prior hull swaps to anticipate any problem areas.

“We went through a lot of the process for the first time last summer with the Juneau-Dubuque swap,” said Lt. Cmdr. Mike Sloan, CPG1’s swap coordinator. “Overall, it was very successful, but there were things we didn’t anticipate, like the human factor involved with switching Sailors’ loyalties from one ship to another. Sailors have a lot of pride in their ships, sort of like the pride you feel for a favorite sports team. Having to switch that loyalty so abruptly can be difficult,” said Sloan.

To help Sailors adjust to their new environments, both ships have been conducting internal information campaigns to teach their crews about each other’s ships.

“We shifted the focus of our internal information programs on the swap from a we/them mindset to more of a Belleau Wood/Essex team effort mindset,” said Senior Chief Journalist Thomas D. Updike, Essex public affairs officer. “I’ve been using the ship’s paper and ship-wide TV system to educate the crew on Belleau Wood’s history and accomplishments.”

Essex also embarked 25 Sailors from Belleau Wood to accompany the ship from San Diego to Sasebo, and several of the Essex crew are currently aboard Belleau Wood.

“We’ve been making

very positive steps towards the crew accepting the future ownership of Belleau Wood, as well as shifting the focus to the mission at hand — the crew swap. It should be a beneficial experience for all involved,” added Updike.

In addition to preparing the crews mentally for the swap, Belleau Wood’s crew has been busy getting the ship physically ready to return to San Diego. Two of the major projects accomplished involved refurbishing portions of berthing to accommodate female Sailors, as well as upgrading the ship’s well deck. Japanese contractors also re-lagged steam pipes and recovered some of the decks.

The swap itself will involve underway training for both crews on their new ships, fast cruises, safe-to-steam underway periods and final crew certifications. Both crews will host an exchange of command ceremony, with CPG1’s new commander, Rear Adm. Paul S. Schultz, as the guest speaker. This will be when the Sasebo-based crew will officially move to Essex and the San Diego-based crew will move to Belleau Wood.

Although the crews will be working hard to make their swap successful, they should have some fun time as well. Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) will be holding sporting events for both crews, and the crew has joint picnics and community relations projects scheduled as well throughout the transition period.

For more information about the USS Essex/USS Belleau Wood hull swap, <http://www.essex.navy.mil>.

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during alternate years.

The U.S. ships that took part in Mercury include the mine countermeasures command and control ship USS Inchon (MCS 12); coastal mine hunters USS Heron (MHC 52), USS Osprey (MHC 51), USS Pelican (MHC 53) and USS Falcon (MHC 59); and mine countermeasures ships USS Champion (MCM 4) and USS Pioneer (MCM 9). All are homeported at Ingleside.

Other participants included three MH-53 "Sea Dragon" aircraft from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 14, based in Norfolk, Va.; EOD Mobile Unit (EODMU) 3, Detachment 15 from San Diego, Calif.; EODMU 6, Detachment 4, based in Ingleside; Mobile Diving Salvage Unit 2 from Little Creek, Va.; and Mobile Mine Assembly Unit 15, based at Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas.

For more information about the Navy's Mine Warfare Command go to <http://www.cnsl.spear.navy.mil/cmwc>.

On Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- The Navy honors Atlantic Fleet, Pacific Fleet, Shore and Reserve Force Sailors of the Year;
- Travel with Sailors and ships as they make port calls along the Mississippi River and Great Lakes;
- Sailors and Marines swim, bike and run for top honors in the Armed Forces Triathlon;
- We spend a day with a Navy recruit at Recruit Training Center Great Lakes.

Compiled on tape #2000-30, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: July 27, 1953

The United States, North Korea, South Korea and China signed the armistice that ended the Korean War but never brought a permanent peace.

By war's end the U.S. casualties included 33,651 service members.

To date, the Republic of Korea (South) and the Democratic People's Republic (North) have not signed a peace treaty.

Visit the Naval Historical Center web site at <http://www.history.navy.mil> for more information about naval history.

Submarine Centennial history: July 25, 1974

The Navy awarded a fixed-price incentive contract to Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics, Groton, Conn., for the construction of the first Trident submarine. The contract included an option for construction of three additional Trident submarines.

For additional Submarine Centennial information and events, visit the U.S. Navy's home page at <http://www.navy.mil> and click on the "Submarine Centennial" button.



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In Formation



Planes from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 17 fly in tight formation over USS George Washington (CVN 73) on July 19, 2000. The Norfolk, Va.- based carrier and the embarked air wing squadron are currently transiting the Red Sea en route to the Arabian Gulf for the first leg of a six-month Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf deployment.

Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Shane McCoy